

surprises, and one of the biggest in theatrical history is the play, "Grumpy." Played in England by Cyril Maude and his company, it was a flivver. After two of Maude's other plays had failed to draw here, he put on "Grumpy." Last week it broke

all records for Wallack's Theater, drawing \$15,666.

Weber & Fields have gotten together again as the stars of a show of their own. They open in Chicago next week.

## NATIONAL DEBTS OF EUROPE PUT MORTGAGE OF \$300 ON EVERY BREADWINNER

BY HERBERT QUICK

The national debts of the world now amount to forty-two billions of dollars.

These national debts have increased twenty per cent within the last ten years.

They have doubled within forty

years.

Five European countries now owe \$21,944,000,000. It is a mortgage on every bread winner, amounting to \$300—if we count one bread winner to a family.

There are securities in sight seeking a market now in Europe alone amounting to four billions of dollars.

The British public debt exists in the form of bonds called "consols." These bonds have sold since December 1st at less than 72 cents on the dollar. This is the lowest price in about eighty years.

No wonder.

The French public debt exists in the form of bonds called "rentes." French rentes sold in early December at 83.35—the lowest price ever known.

No wonder!

In the second week of December twenty millions of Canadian government bonds were offered on the London market—four per cent bonds. Only seventeen per cent of them sold.

No wonder!

The average yearly income of a family in Italy or Russia is from \$150 to \$175. The cost of living is higher than ever before. In fact, ten cents or more out of every dollar earned is taken by the government for these unholy debts—and more is demanded.

No wonder that there is more of discontent and unrest than ever before in all the nations of the world.

The wonder—and perhaps the pity—is that there are not rebellions, insurrections and uprisings everywhere.

### WILSON AS "FIRE LADDIE"



President Wilson as he would look in fireman's uniform.

Minneapolis, Minn.—President Wilson can "hop" the hook and ladder trucks any day now and make the "run" with the fire laddies if he feels like it, for he's just been elected to honorary membership by the Minneapolis Veteran Firemen's Association. His election followed his adventures at Pass Christian, Miss., last month, when he assisted in extinguishing a midnight fire. He had charge of a volunteer bucket brigade.

Mrs. Edith W. Pierce was recently appointed street inspector in Philadelphia.